

HUD's Resident Service and Satisfaction Survey

What is the Survey? The Resident Service and Satisfaction Survey is sent to a sample of public housing residents at each Public Housing Agency (PHA) on a yearly basis to find out how satisfied they are with the living conditions at their development. This survey is part of HUD's increased commitment to monitoring Public Housing Agencies.

How will HUD use our input? Your satisfaction and experience with your living conditions will be included in HUD's yearly evaluation of your housing agency. This survey was developed with the help of PHA's, resident leaders, and representatives of the industry.

Who will be asked to fill it out? Public Housing residents throughout the nation will be included in the survey process. Not all residents will receive a survey. The surveys should arrive in mailboxes sometime between March 17th and April 24th. Residents will be chosen randomly using a computer program. The survey will take place yearly, so if you do not receive a survey this year you may in the future. *Your cooperation in returning the survey is appreciated.*



Spotlight On FSS

The FSS program is proud to present our "Logo Contest" during the month of March. Only FSS participating families may submit a logo design. The winning design will be used on all FSS related stationary, newsletters, etc. Entries will be accepted until March 31st. A panel of judges will decide the winning entry and the winner will receive a \$100 gift certificate. Eligible families will receive an entry form and letter about the contest during the last week of February.

"My name is Roslyn Daniels and I am a single mother of three children age 14, 12, and 10. I am employed at Via Christi as a medical receptionist. As a participant in the FSS program, I have set homeownership as my goal. I am really excited about the possibility of owning my own home. I have been working hard getting my life together for my children and myself. The children are really excited about being in their "own" home. I like the fact that when I'm ready to start the home-buying process, I'll be set and ready to go and have some money for down payment and closing costs. I like the fact that the Section 8 FSS program is willing to help with every aspect of the transition from tenancy to homeownership. I hope that those persons who are thinking about or are participating in the FSS program will take advantage of all the services the program has to offer.

FSS staff has been very busy putting together workshops and activities for the remainder of 2003. Facilitators from our community will present vital information regarding the topics listed below. FSS participating families will also share their personal stories at workshops regarding specific topics; March 5-**Motivation**; April 10-**Domestic Abuse**; May 8 -**Literacy** 3; June 12-**Budgeting, Credit and Homeownership**; July 10-**Substance Abuse**; August 14-**Law Enforcement**; September 11-**Sexual Assault, Acquaintance & Date Rape, Protective Parenting**; October 9-**Effective Parenting**; November 13-**Career Development**; December 11-**Reflections**. All workshops will be held at the City Hall First Floor Boardroom from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Attendance is mandatory for all FSS clients. Seating is limited, therefore FSS families are the only ones eligible to attend.

ATTENTION SECTION 8 LANDLORDS

Information and forms especially for YOU are now available on our website.

IF YOU ARE A CURRENT SECTION 8 LANDLORD and are wanting to complete rental information about your unit; change your address or phone number; or request an extension for an inspection, please complete the appropriate form(s) now found on the Housing Services Department Section 8 website at: www.wichita.gov/housing/section8.asp

The **Rental Information Form** and the **Change of Address/Phone Form** may be submitted online. If you prefer, you can print the form and mail it to the Section 8 Office at 307 N. Riverview, 67203 or fax to 316/337-9103. The **Request for an Inspection Extension Form** is available for you to print and mail or fax to us.

Please continue to visit our website for forms and information to be added for your convenience!

Home Maintenance for Homebuyers

New and old homebuyers alike will benefit from these handy tips for March and April!

- ☐ Clean furnace filter
- ☐ Check attic
- ☐ Check sump pump (if installed)
- ☐ Clean range hood filter
- ☐ Clean humidifier
- ☐ Remove snow and ice from roof overhang and vents
- ☐ Test smoke alarms and CO detectors
- ☐ Plan any major remodeling or repair projects; assemble drawings, check out permit requirements and call contractors for bids.
- ☐ Inspect window screens and make repairs if needed.
- ☐ Tune up and clean the blades of portable fans.
- ☐ Check window and patio doors for smooth operation.
- ☐ Check gutters and downspouts
- ☐ Inspect basement or crawl spaces
- ☐ Check roof for loose or cracked shingles
- ☐ Check driveways and walks for frost damage
- ☐ Check water heater
- ☐ Plan landscaping to avoid soil settlement & ponding
- ☐ Inspect roof flashings for leaks and check roof for winter damage.
- ☐ Clean and seal wooden decks.
- ☐ Wash windows and screens.
- ☐ Tune up bicycles, BBQ and other outdoor gear.
- ☐ Inspect, tune up and sharpen garden tools



Need Help Preparing Your Taxes? Get FREE Help!

The City of Wichita is again teaming-up with the IRS to help eligible taxpayers take advantage of the **Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)** when preparing their federal income tax returns. The tax assistance program is available **free of charge** to low-income citizens who meet the income guidelines.

The tax assistance program will run through April 15. The IRS will have tax advisers working in the four Neighborhood City Halls to provide free tax assistance to low-income taxpayers. Neighborhood City Halls are open 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday through Friday. Citizens who want to take part in the assistance program must call the Neighborhood City Hall in their area for an appointment.

The City of Wichita's Neighborhood City Halls are at the following locations: Atwater Neighborhood City Hall, 2755 E. 19th Street, Phone: 303-8017; Colvin Neighborhood City Hall, 2820 S. Roosevelt, Phone: 303-8029; Stanley/Aley Neighborhood City Hall, 1749 S. Martinson, Phone: 303-8007; Evergreen Neighborhood City Hall, 2700 N. Woodland, Phone: 303-8041.

In addition, tax forms will be available at the **Help Center for Laid-Off Workers**. For additional tax questions or information about qualifications for the Earned Income Tax Credit, call the IRS toll free at 1-800-829-1040.

Source: <http://www.wichita.gov/news/>

Heartland SHARE

Heartland SHARE is a program that provides nutritious food packages once a month to people willing to help themselves and others. Take advantage of Heartland SHARE and save up to 50% on food packages each month! Heartland SHARE is for you – no matter what your income! SHARE is dedicated to providing a monthly, basic, affordable food package to those willing to help themselves and others through volunteer work. Because of the bulk buying power and the volunteer distribution network, savings of up to 50% are passed onto SHARE participants.

What is a SHARE? A food package of five meats, a variety of fresh fruits and vegetables, and a couple of grocery items.

How much does a SHARE cost? Two hours of volunteer service and \$17, or a \$17 Vision Card. Volunteer service is anything you willingly do to help someone else. For example, you could volunteer at a church, baby-sit free of charge, mow a neighbors' yard, Scouting, 4-H, etc. (Need volunteer ideas? See the "How Can You Help" article to the right.) Remember, you have an entire month to fulfill the two hours that can be broken into smaller periods of time and added up at the end of the month.

How do I participate? You sign up and pay for your food during certain dates each month at a local distribution site. For more information on sign-ups and distribution, call **June Glasgow** at 800/932-2028 or email her at june@heartlandshare.com. Check out their website at www.heartlandshare.com.

How Can YOU Help?

***HAVE YOU** ever had the feeling you could do more to help others?*

***HAVE YOU** ever wanted to volunteer some of your extra time but didn't know where to start?*

***HAVE YOU** ever felt that getting out and meeting other people would be good for you?*

***HAVE YOU** searched for an opportunity to teach teens and young adults at home the value of service to others?*

If you've answered yes to any of these questions, the following information is for you!

Come join your fellow citizens and help hundreds of Wichitans in need! You are invited to join the many volunteers who serve meals at **The Lord's Diner**. This invitation is open to anyone **over the age of 14** and participation is voluntary. If you would like to get involved, you must obtain a Food Handler's License (**free of charge**) by attending a training class. The Lord's Diner holds Food Handlers' classes at various times. To attend a class, please register with The Lord's Diner by calling 266-4966 or call the Health Department at 268-8351 for dates and times. The Lord's Diner, located at 520 N. Broadway, is a non-profit food kitchen that serves high quality hot meals 7 days a week, 365 days a year to anyone who wishes to come eat regardless of *race, religion, residency or income level*. The Diner serves between 275 and 450 people each night.

NEW HOUSING SERVICES EMPLOYEES

Please welcome our newest Housing Services staff members!

Jared Hodges has joined the Public Housing Division filling the vacant Clerk II position. Jared has a strong background in data entry and customer service and will prove to be an asset to our Department.

Kathy Pewewardy has joined the Neighborhood Improvement Services staff as Secretary on January 21. She is transferring from City Clerk's Office where she has been a Secretary since 1996. Her work experience with the City of Wichita also includes being a Secretary in Finance and Data Entry Operator in Police. Kathy is bringing with her extensive experience in customer relations, secretarial and administrative responsibilities, and will be an asset to our department.

Wichita Housing Services Department

332 N. Riverview

Wichita, Kansas 67203



Bal-A-Vis-X Demonstration for Seniors!

Seniors are welcome to attend a demonstration of Bal-A-Vis-X to take place at 10:15 a.m. on Thursday, March 13, 2003 at Hadley Middle School. Bill Hubert, developer of the exercises, and his students will conduct the demonstration. *This demonstration is free of charge.*

“Bal-A-Vis-X is a series of **B**alance/**A**uditory/**V**ision **eX**ercises, of varied complexity, most, of which are deeply rooted in rhythm. . . The program utilizes beanbags, racquetballs, balance boards, multiple principles and activities from Brain Gym.”

(Source: Handbook on Bal-A-Vis-X by Bill Hubert)

Mr. Hubert began developing the BAVX program in 1975, while looking for a solution to his growing list of common difficulties among his students. Studying theories and methods of patterning exercises, he found that the skills acquired from bounce-juggling balls resulted in ***better hand-eye coordination as well as increased focus***. It wasn't long before the skills learned during his “Group Beanbag Breaks” were transferred to the classroom, resulting in increased reading and math skills.

Mr. Hubert has found that while his focus has been on school age persons, ***seniors also benefit from his simple exercises***. By coordinating hand, eye and brain activity with patterned movement of beanbags and bouncing racquetballs, ***seniors who are experiencing decreased memory and coordination have found that the focus learned using BAVX has improved their memory and balance***.

Thanks to the efforts of Rosie Kirkpatrick, resident of McLean Manor, classes are scheduled to begin in March for her neighbors at McLean. If you are interested in starting a Bal-A-Vis-X program at your facility, contact Bill Hubert at 316-722-8012.

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